

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3195

To provide assistance to adolescents and young adults with serious mental health disorders as they transition to adulthood.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 2008

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide assistance to adolescents and young adults with serious mental health disorders as they transition to adulthood.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Healthy Transition
5 Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. HEALTHY TRANSITIONING FOR YOUTH.**

7 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health
8 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 520K. HEALTHY TRANSITIONING FOR YOUTH.**

2 “(a) PLANNING GRANTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
4 tion with the agencies described in subsection (c)(3),
5 shall award grants or cooperative agreements to
6 States to develop plans for the statewide coordina-
7 tion of services to assist adolescents and young
8 adults with a serious mental health disorder in ac-
9 quiring the skills, knowledge, and resources nec-
10 essary to ensure their healthy transition to success-
11 ful adult roles and responsibilities.

12 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
13 or cooperative agreement under this subsection, a
14 State shall submit to the Secretary an application,
15 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
16 information as the Secretary may require.

17 “(3) PLAN.—Not later than 18 months after
18 the receipt of a grant or cooperative agreement
19 under this subsection, a State shall submit to the
20 Secretary a State plan that shall include—

21 “(A) reliable estimates on the number of
22 adolescents and young adults with serious men-
23 tal health disorders in the State;

24 “(B) information on the youth targeted
25 under this Act, including—

1 “(i) the number of adolescents and
2 young adults with serious mental health
3 disorders in the State and the number of
4 such individuals who are currently being
5 served in the State;

6 “(ii) the number of such individuals
7 who are receiving mental health services
8 provided by State agencies other than the
9 agency responsible for mental health serv-
10 ices in the State;

11 “(iii) the number of youth with seri-
12 ous mental health disorders who are in-
13 volved in the juvenile justice system in the
14 State;

15 “(iv) the number of youth with seri-
16 ous mental health disorders who are in-
17 volved in the child protection system in the
18 State;

19 “(v) the number of youth with serious
20 mental health disorders who have plans in
21 effect under the Individuals with Disabil-
22 ities Education Act in the State;

23 “(vi) the number of youth with seri-
24 ous mental health disorders who are in-

1 volved in vocational rehabilitation in the
2 State;

3 “(vii) the range of ages served by the
4 programs described in clauses (i) through
5 (vi); and

6 “(viii) a description of the overall
7 transition coordination that is currently
8 provided by the State or local authorities
9 and programs in the State;

10 “(C) an identification of the skills, knowl-
11 edge, and resources that adolescents and young
12 adults with serious mental health disorders in
13 the State will need to ensure their successful
14 and healthy transition into adult roles and re-
15 sponsibilities;

16 “(D) an identification of the obstacles that
17 adolescents and young adults with serious men-
18 tal health disorders in the State encounter while
19 transitioning into adult roles and responsibil-
20 ities, including breaks in service or programs
21 caused by eligibility and program criteria dif-
22 ferences between the child and adult mental
23 health systems and the lack of local access to
24 mental health and transition services;

1 “(E) an identification of the current level,
2 type, quality, effectiveness, and availability of
3 services, including evidence-based practices,
4 available in the State that are uniquely de-
5 signed for adolescents and young adults with a
6 serious mental health disorder to ensure a
7 healthy transition to successful adult roles and
8 responsibilities;

9 “(F) an identification of adolescents and
10 young adults with a serious emotional disorder
11 who have a low likelihood of a healthy and suc-
12 cessful transition due to the severity of their ill-
13 ness, and an identification of how the State will
14 provide treatment and other support services to
15 this population;

16 “(G) an analyses of the strengths, weak-
17 nesses, and gaps of the current system in the
18 State, including the availability of lack of men-
19 tal health professionals trained to treat adoles-
20 cents and young adults with a serious mental
21 health disorder, as well as barriers, to address
22 the needs of adolescents and young adults with
23 a serious mental health disorder with an appro-
24 priate array of effective services and supports;

1 “(H) a description of how the State will
2 improve the system of care to ensure successful
3 and healthy transitions;

4 “(I) a description of how the State will co-
5 ordinate the services of State and non-State
6 agencies that serve adolescents and young
7 adults with a serious mental health disorder;

8 “(J) a description of how the State will
9 provide a system of coordinated service delivery
10 under the grant or cooperative agreement that
11 will address the effective services, supports, and
12 unique needs of adolescents and young adults
13 with a serious mental disorder, including those
14 who have been placed in out of home settings
15 such as the juvenile justice system or those who
16 are or were involved in the child protection sys-
17 tems;

18 “(K) a description of how the State will co-
19 ordinate efforts under the grant or cooperative
20 agreement with existing services and systems in
21 the State that focus on life skills necessary for
22 a healthy transition including health, employ-
23 ment and pre-employment training, transpor-
24 tation, housing, recreation, mental health serv-
25 ices, substance abuse, vocational rehabilitation

1 services for persons with disabilities, and train-
2 ing for adolescents, young adults and adults,
3 consumers and their families;

4 “(L) a description of how the State will
5 work to build workforce capacity to serve the
6 population described in subparagraph (J);

7 “(M) a description of how the State will
8 reach out to the target population pre-transi-
9 tion, during transition, and post-transition;

10 “(N) a description of how the State is cur-
11 rently utilizing and leveraging (and how the
12 State will use and leverage) Federal funding
13 streams to care for the target population, in-
14 cluding funding through Medicaid, the Depart-
15 ment of Housing and Urban Development, the
16 Department of Labor through supported employ-
17 ment, the Early and Periodic Screening, Diag-
18 nosis, and Treatment Program, and other pro-
19 grams, and including an outline of the barriers
20 the State faces in making Federal funding flow
21 to the targeted population in a coordinated
22 manner;

23 “(O) a description of how the State will in-
24 volve adolescents and young adults with serious
25 mental health disorders and their families and

1 guardians in the service design, planning, and
2 implementation of the plan under the grant or
3 cooperative agreement;

4 “(P) an implementation subplan that shall
5 be designed to recognize the challenges of im-
6 plementing a program between communities at
7 a statewide level and how the State will over-
8 come those challenges;

9 “(Q) a description of how the State plans
10 to evaluate outcomes under the program funded
11 under the grant or cooperative agreement;

12 “(R) a designation of the State office that
13 will be the lead agency responsible for admin-
14 istering the program under the grant or cooper-
15 ative agreement;

16 “(S) a description of how the State will en-
17 sure that the activities planned under the grant
18 or cooperative agreement will remain sustain-
19 able at the end of the cycle of Federal funding
20 under this section; and

21 “(T) any other information determined ap-
22 propriate by the Secretary.

23 “(4) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—The duration of
24 a grant or cooperative agreement under this sub-
25 section shall not exceed 2 fiscal years.

1 “(5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
 2 shall provide technical assistance and training in the
 3 development of the plan under paragraph (3), in-
 4 cluding convening a meeting of potential applicants
 5 for grants or cooperative agreement under this sub-
 6 section.

7 “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
 9 be appropriated to carry out this subsection,
 10 \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, and such sums
 11 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
 12 2010 through 2013.

13 “(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-
 14 retary shall make available 15 percent of the
 15 amount appropriated under subparagraph (A)
 16 in each fiscal year for technical assistance
 17 under paragraph (5).

18 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
 20 grants or cooperative agreement to eligible States
 21 for the coordination of services to assist adolescents
 22 and young adults with serious mental health dis-
 23 orders in acquiring the services, skills, and knowl-
 24 edge necessary to ensure their healthy transition to
 25 successful adult roles and responsibilities.

1 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant
2 or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1), a
3 State shall—

4 “(A) be a State that has received a grant
5 or cooperative agreement under subsection (a)
6 and submitted a plan that meets the require-
7 ments of paragraph (3) of such subsection; or

8 “(B) be a State that has not received such
9 a grant or cooperative agreement but that has
10 a plan that is equivalent to the plan required
11 under subsection (a)(3).

12 “(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
13 or cooperative agreement under this subsection, a
14 State shall submit to the Secretary an application,
15 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
16 information as the Secretary requires, including—

17 “(A) a copy of the plan submitted under
18 subsection (a)(3), or in the case of a State de-
19 scribed in paragraph (2)(B), a plan that is
20 equivalent to the plan required under subsection
21 (a)(3);

22 “(B) a list of the State agencies that will
23 participate in the program to be funded under
24 the grant or cooperative agreement along with

1 written verification as to the commitment of
2 such agencies to the program;

3 “(C) an assurance that the State will de-
4 velop a coordinating committee composed of
5 representatives of the participating State agen-
6 cies, as well as consumers and families of con-
7 sumers;

8 “(D) a description of the role of such co-
9 ordinating committee; and

10 “(E) the names of at least two local com-
11 munities that will implement the program at
12 the local level and how those communities will
13 implement the State plan.

14 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under a
15 grant or cooperative agreement under this sub-
16 section shall be used to implement the State plan,
17 including—

18 “(A) facilitating a youth ombudsman or
19 other advocacy program;

20 “(B) facilitating peer support programs
21 and networks within the State;

22 “(C) facilitating access to independent liv-
23 ing and life skills supports;

1 “(D) developing infrastructure to support
2 access to necessary health, mental health, em-
3 ployment, education, and housing supports; and

4 “(E) facilitating the training of support
5 providers and workforce capacity to serve the
6 target population.

7 “(5) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—The duration of
8 a grant or cooperative agreement under this sub-
9 section shall not exceed 5 fiscal years.

10 “(6) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a
12 grant or cooperative agreement under this sub-
13 section, the State shall agree that, with respect
14 to the costs to be incurred by the State in car-
15 rying out activities under the grant or coopera-
16 tive agreement, the State will make available
17 (directly or through donations from public or
18 private entities) non-Federal contributions to-
19 ward such costs in an amount that—

20 “(i) for the first fiscal year for which
21 the State receives payments under the
22 grant or cooperative agreement, is not less
23 than \$1 for each \$3 of Federal funds pro-
24 vided under the grant or cooperative agree-
25 ment;

1 “(ii) for any second or third such fis-
2 cal year, is not less than \$1 for each \$2 of
3 Federal funds provided under the grant or
4 cooperative agreement;

5 “(iii) for any fourth such fiscal year,
6 is not less than \$1 for each \$1 of Federal
7 funds provided under the grant or coopera-
8 tive agreement; and

9 “(iv) for any fifth such fiscal year, is
10 not less than \$2 for each \$1 of Federal
11 funds provided under the grant or coopera-
12 tive agreement.

13 “(B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CON-
14 TRIBUTED.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Non-Federal con-
16 tributions required under subparagraph
17 (A) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evalu-
18 ated, including plant, equipment, or serv-
19 ices. Amounts provided by the Federal
20 Government, or services assisted or sub-
21 sidized to any significant extent by the
22 Federal Government, may not be included
23 in determining the amount of such non-
24 Federal contributions.

1 “(ii) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBU-
2 TIONS.—In making a determination of the
3 amount of non-Federal contributions for
4 purposes of clause (i), the Secretary may
5 include only non-Federal contributions in
6 excess of the average amount of non-Fed-
7 eral contributions made by the State in-
8 volved toward the purpose of the grant or
9 cooperative agreement under this sub-
10 section for the 2-year period preceding the
11 first fiscal year for which the State re-
12 ceives a grant or cooperative agreement
13 under such subsection.

14 “(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
15 shall provide technical assistance and training to re-
16 cipients of grants or cooperative agreements under
17 this subsection, including convening meetings each
18 year to identify ways of improving State programs.
19 Such meetings shall include the members of the
20 Federal Partners Committee under subsection (c).

21 “(8) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall carry
22 out a cross-site evaluation that—

23 “(A) reports on current State efforts to
24 transition the population involved prior to the

1 implementation of the State plans under this
2 section; and

3 “(B) evaluates the program carried out by
4 the State under this section to determine the ef-
5 fectiveness of such program in meeting its goals
6 and objectives as compared with current ap-
7 proaches.

8 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
10 be appropriated to carry out this subsection,
11 \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and
12 2010, \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011,
13 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, and
14 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

15 “(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EVAL-
16 UATION.—The Secretary shall make available
17 15 percent of the amount appropriated under
18 subparagraph (A), or \$2,000,000 whichever is
19 greater, in each fiscal year for technical assist-
20 ance under paragraph (7) and the evaluation
21 under paragraph (8).

22 “(c) FEDERAL PARTNERS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall des-
24 ignate an existing Federal entity, or establish a
25 Committee of Federal Partners, to coordinate service

1 programs to assist adolescents and young adults
2 with serious mental health disorders in acquiring the
3 knowledge and skills necessary for them to transi-
4 tion into adult roles and responsibilities.

5 “(2) EXISTING FEDERAL ENTITY.—If the Sec-
6 retary elects to utilize an existing Federal entity
7 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure
8 that—

9 “(A) such entity is comprised of represent-
10 atives of at least the agencies described in para-
11 graph (3); and

12 “(B) such entity shall give special atten-
13 tion to the knowledge and skills needed by ado-
14 lescents and young adults with mental health
15 disorders in coordinating the programs funded
16 under this section.

17 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—A Federal entity utilized
18 under this subsection, or a committee established
19 under paragraph (1), shall include representatives
20 of—

21 “(A) the Department of Education (or any
22 subagency of the Department);

23 “(B) the Department of Health and
24 Human Services (or any subagency of the De-
25 partment);

1 “(C) the Department of Labor (or any
2 subagency of the Department);

3 “(D) the Department of Transportation
4 (or any subagency of the Department);

5 “(E) the Department of Housing and
6 Urban Development (or any subagency of the
7 Department);

8 “(F) the Department of Interior (or any
9 subagency of the Department);

10 “(G) the Department of Justice (or any
11 subagency of the Department);

12 “(H) the Social Security Administration;

13 “(I) an organization representing con-
14 sumers and families of consumers as designated
15 by the Secretary; and

16 “(J) an organization representing mental
17 health and behavioral health professionals as
18 designated by the Secretary.

19 “(4) ROLE OF ENTITY OR COMMITTEE.—The
20 Federal entity or committee designated or estab-
21 lished under paragraph (1) shall review how Federal
22 programs and efforts that address issues related to
23 the transition of adolescents and young adults with
24 serious mental health disorders may be coordinated
25 to ensure the maximum benefit for the individuals

1 being served and to provide technical assistance to
 2 the States who are planning or implementing pro-
 3 grams under this section.

4 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
 5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal entity
 6 or committee designated or established under para-
 7 graph (1) shall submit to the appropriate commit-
 8 tees of Congress, and make available to the general
 9 public, a report concerning the participation of Fed-
 10 eral agencies and stakeholders in the planning and
 11 operations of the entity or committee. Such report
 12 shall also contain a description of the status of the
 13 efforts of such entity or committee in coordinating
 14 Federal efforts on behalf of the target population.

15 “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 17 this subsection, \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, and
 18 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
 19 years 2010 through 2013.

20 “(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘serious
 21 mental health disorder’ has the meaning given the term
 22 ‘serious mental illness’ by the Administrator for purposes
 23 of this title.”.

